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MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Sarah DeRoo, Editor

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Deadline for Next Issue:

January 31, 2013

Send materials to Sarah DeRoo at sderoo@milwaukee.gov

HEALTHY TIMES STAFF

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A GRAND OPENING

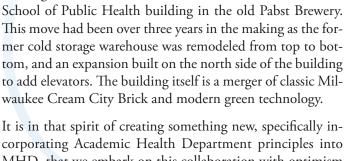
by Dr. Eric Gass



Above: Dr. Gass in one of the new office spaces

Right: Common area and school entrance

Below: Old construction meets new



On August 20, 2012, MHD staff moved into the new Zilber

MHD, that we embark on this collaboration with optimism and enthusiasm. An open house was held for MHD staff on



September 24 to showcase our new home. A total of six tour groups were able to see Suite 210, where MHD staff are located, the first floor classroom with three flat screen TVs, the conference rooms on the third and fourth floor that have a built-in telephone/video conference system (including individual microphones for each seat), the testing kitchen, the fifth floor conference space, and the Touchdown Center, where staff from partner agencies can use personal office space on a temporary basis.

continued on next page

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS



Bevan K. Baker, FACHE

In the world of public health, things never stop moving. As we continue our work in areas such as infant mortality, teen pregnancy, lead poisoning, and immunizations, I'd also like to introduce you to another project the City of Milwaukee Health Department is proud to be supporting called Acceptance Journeys.

You may have seen the billboards and bus advertisements throughout the city. Some ask, "Whose life can you change with love?" Others state, "I love my uncle just the way he is." It's all part of a collaboration between MHD and Diverse & Resilient, the nonprofit organization behind Acceptance Journeys.

The aim of the project is to end anti-gay and anti-transgender discrimination, and in doing so, to reduce the alarming rates of HIV and AIDS in Milwaukee. In 2010, the CDC confirmed that Milwaukee had some of the highest rates of HIV in the country.

Of all new HIV cases statewide, a little over half are in Milwaukee County. Of those cases, 90 percent are in the city of Milwaukee. We also know that there has been a 218 percent increase from 2002 to 2011 in the number of cases in young black men who have sex with men. And this is the population we're targeting today.

Research tells us that one reason for these high HIV rates, and for these disparities, is rooted in perception – internalized homophobia in particular. It's a root cause that leads to risky sexual behaviors, and also can result in increased chances of being homeless, a lower economic status, decreased access to health care, and higher rates of poor mental health.

Through this project, we're seeking to build a dialogue that will reduce the HIV and STD rates in our community. It's just one step we are taking, but it's an important one. To me, it's about ensuring that all people in our city are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

This month, a new round of marketing will be rolled out, and I am proud to be appearing in one of stories with my good friend and colleague Gary Hollander, executive director of Diverse & Resilient.

I hope you take pride in this campaign, and join me in supporting this important effort that will produce better health outcomes in our community.

Happy holidays to you all.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE Commissioner of Health

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. cont.



Second Floor Classroom



Lori Hoffmann greets staff and visitors to Suite 210

The building is buzzing every day with many community groups utilizing the space for meetings, and students taking classes at night. Already, the PhD programs in Environmental and Occupational Health and Community and Behavioral Health Promotion have two cohorts of students. In addition, the Masters of Public Health program has two cohorts. By the fall of 2014, PhD programs in Epidemiology/Biostatistics and Health Policy and Administration will be up and running, in addition to offering the MPH degree in all five of the disciplines. In addition, 10 new faculty will be hired by the fall semester of 2013.

MHD staff with offices full-time at the Zilber School of Public Health are **Jessica Gathirimu**, **Lori Hoffmann**, **Ali Reed**, and UW Population Health Fellow **Erica LaCounte**. **Marisa Stanley** will also join the staff full-time on January 7th.

MHD staff that have part-time offices at the Zilber School of Public Health are **Eric Gass, Geof Swain, Anna Benton,** and UW Population Health Fellow **Tyler Webber.**

More School of Public Health photos on page 3

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As we all plan our New Year's Resolutions, we're busy setting workplace goals as well. To set communication goals, we want to hear from you! Please follow the link below to share your thoughts on Healthy Times and internal communications. Your feedback will be invaluable as we work to plan a happier, healthier 2013.

http://conta.cc/Z61hXf

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS PREGNANT? REFER HER TODAY!

We are all aware of Milwaukee's alarming infant mortality rates, but did you know that every pregnant woman in the city of Milwaukee eligible for BadgerCare, is also eligible to receive home visiting services during her pregnancy?

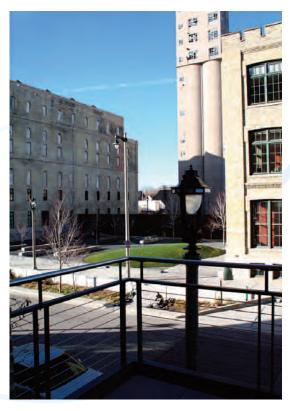
In Wisconsin, only a third of women who are eligible for home visitation services actually enroll in a program. We need your help to shrink this number today!

MHD has three home visitation programs which provide pregnant women and new families with information and resources to have a healthy baby. If you know someone who is pregnant, urge her to call central intake at (414) 286-8620 and ask to speak to one of our nurses. Or, fill out a referral form and fax or interoffice the referral to central intake at SSHC. Let's all do our part to keep babies alive – refer a mom today!

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, cont.

Right: School of Public Health Zilber Park, which underneath holds an 80,000 gallon water retention system.

Below: Statue of Joseph and Vera Zilber in front of the park's eco-friendly rock wall.









Rooftop signage visible from I-43 southbound

LIVELY LAB

Lab staff have been busy in recent months attending numerous conferences and trainings, preparing for inspections and raising awareness of the MHDL in the community. Here are some highlights of our many activities:

Deputy Laboratory Director **Sanjib Bhattacharyya**, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) BioMolecular Engineering (BioE) Program's Industry Advisory Committee (IAC), hosted the fall meeting at the MHD on November 16. Approximately 15 members from the BioE IAC and three MHD staff attended. Many guests also toured the laboratory following the meeting.

Dr. Bhattacharyya attended the 10th Anniversary Planet xMAP Scientific Symposium at the Grimaldi Forum in Monte-Carlo, Monaco, October 9-11, 2012. The 600 invited attendees included 40 scientists from the U.S. Dr. Bhattacharyya presented on the Luminex Gastric Pathogen Panel and was one of the panelists in a multiplex diagnostic discussion during the Americas Day symposium on October 9. The following link shows a short video from the event: http://www.planetxmap.com/usprogram.

The MHDL took part in Milwaukee Area Technical College's Fall Job Fair, held on September 27. About 80 companies had booths at the event, attracting nearly 1,000 job seekers. Many of the attendees expressed interest in learning more about the MHDL and how to pursue a laboratory-related education and/or career track.

Dr. Steve Gradus, Laboratory Director, presented at an Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) LEAN workshop on the use of the LEAN tool of Value Stream Mapping (VSM) to ana-



Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) Research Subcommittee meeting

lyze and improve the MHDL's handling of hazardous waste. Over a period of several months, Dr. Gradus used VSM techniques to lead MHDL staff in thoroughly evaluating existing procedures and writing a new lab hazardous waste protocol.

Also in June, Deputy Laboratory Director **Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya** attended an APHL workshop on storytelling for laboratories. Using the workshop guidelines, the lab's summer AHEC-CHIP intern **Patrick Heffernan** crafted several stories about MHDL staff and their roles and experiences working in the lab. The storytelling ties in with MHDL's Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) workforce development goal of promoting the MHDL and local public health laboratory (LPHL) system.

On June 22, we convened a diverse group of about 20 local researchers at the Italian Community Center for a meeting of our Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) Research Subcommittee. The group discussed research interests, capabilities, themes, possible collaborations, and how to best facilitate lab system research. Each participant completed a survey about their research capabilities and interests, with responses compiled into a research inventory, a tool that will help connect Milwaukee-area researchers. Nine researchers identified 15 new potential collaborations of interest that would complement their ongoing work. Also, discussions have been initiated to link the research databases from the various community research networks.

During the past several months, the Laboratory underwent and successfully passed three major bi-annual inspections:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Food, Dairy and Water Lab Certification inspection, August 22, 2012;

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) inspection, July 18, 2012;

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Environmental Lead Program site assessment and reaccreditation inspection, March 8-9, 2012.

Congratulations to our very dedicated and professional staff!

Laboratory staff attended meetings/trainings as follows:

Dr. Steve Gradus – 7th International Conference for Food Safety & Quality, Chicago, November 13

Brad Krause – Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network Conference, Madison, October 23

Dave Bina – Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN) meeting, Madison, September 18

José Navidad – CDC CaliciNet User Network Meeting & Workshop, Atlanta, August 27-28

Each recently shared the knowledge they gained at those conferences with other MHDL staff, and already have been applying some of it in the lab.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOODS

WIC Farmers' Markets Celebrate a Successful Season

By Becky Litwaitis

From June through October, the MHD Health Centers are expanding access to healthy foods thanks to Farmers Markets hosted by WIC. At NWHC and SSHC, the markets are held weekly. This year, the market expanded to KHC where it was held twice a month.

Each summer, WIC families receive \$17 to buy locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from WIC-approved farmers to increase the consumption of produce in WIC participants' diet and support Wisconsin farmers.

Once again, the Farmers Markets were very popular! Over 4,000 WIC Farmers Market checks were cashed this year. The Health Department can be proud of our role in providing access to fresh, nutritious foods in our health center neighborhoods.

Special thanks to the maintenance team who have supported our efforts in making our markets successful each week.

> All photos: Fit Families Graduation Party at Southside Health Center on August 15, 2012

EXPANDING FITNESS KNOWLEDGE FOR GOOD HEALTH

WIC Fit Families Completes Its First Year

By Becky Litwaitis

On August 15, WIC hosted a Fit Families Summer Celebration to celebrate its first year as a Fit Families Center. An obesity prevention program for WIC families with children between the ages of 2-4 years, Fit Families



lies allows enrollees to work with a nutritionist to set goals relating to one of the program's core messages:

Move More...Watch Less Encourages participants to engage in active play or physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day and reduce screen time to two hours or less each day.

Make Every Bite Count...More Fruits and Vegetables Guides children and their parents to work toward eating the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables each day.

Make Every Sip Count...More Healthy Beverages Encourages families to reduce or eliminate use of sugared beverages.

Eat Healthy, Be Active: Your Kids are Watching: The program's overarching message seeks to help parents be good role models for their children.

The nutritionist has monthly contact with families to provide the necessary tools, education and support needed to help them achieve their goals. It's a great step in helping families think health, and act now!







Find the Fall/Winter words listed below. Answers are on the back page.

Р	U	M	Р	K	I	N	W	0	N	S
1	G	Ν	I	L	0	R	Α	С	M	Н
Ε	I	S	Α	Ε	Υ	G	S	Н	S	0
0	F	D	L	В	L	G	S	Α	Α	Р
Ε	Т	S	S	Ε	M	0	Α	N	M	Р
L	S	Υ	0	-	-	N	-	U	Т	-
G	Ε	U	K	Т	S	G	L	K	S	N
N	Н	S	I	В	Τ	G	Н	K	-	G
1	S	С	N	L	L	Е	Н	Α	R	R
٧	L	Ε	D	-	Ε	R	D	Н	Н	Ε
1	L	K	R	Ζ	Τ	С	-	S	С	-
G	Α	L	W	Ζ	0	Е	Τ	I	M	N
S	В	-	M	Α	Ε	Α	Τ	S	Ε	D
K	Τ	G	Т	R	N	S	S	Ε	N	Ε
N	0	Н	Т	D	L	Z	Α	S	0	Ε
Α	0	Т	0	0	N	Α	Α	N	R	R
Н	F	S	S	Α	N	T	Α	Α	Α	D
Τ	0	В	0	G	G	Α	N	Α	Н	L

BLIZZARD
CAROLING
CHRISTMAS
COAT
DREIDEL
EGGNOG
FOOTBALL
GIFTS
HANUKKAH
KWANZAA

LIGHTS
MENORAH
MISTLETOE
NOEL
PIE
PUMPKIN
REINDEER
SANTA
SHOPPING
SKI

SLEIGH SNOW SOLSTICE THANKSGIVING TINSEL TREE TOBOGGAN WASSAIL

If there is a person you would like to see featured in the Employee Highlight, please contact:

Sarah DeRoo sderoo@milwaukee.gov or call x3548.

Employee Highligh

LIZ ZEMBROWSKI

As a Chemist II in the MHD Laboratory, Liz has done a variety of scientific work since she joined the department more than 22 years ago, from clinical and environmental lead testing and food testing, to cell splitting and quality assurance

projects. When the days get long, Liz reminds herself that the work she does will have a positive impact on the health of someone in the community.

Beyond the lab, Liz has participated in several department-wide committees and initiatives, enabling her to get to know people from all areas of the MHD. When she isn't working, Liz enjoys spending time outdoors and being involved with the performance arts and various groups her children perform in. She recently took some time to share more about herself with her MHD colleagues.

What do you like most about your job?

The many amazing people I have had the privilege of knowing and working with throughout the department over the years. Their compassion for the people we serve and passion for improving the overall health of the community continues to inspire me. From those that serve as the "voice" of the department, to the nurses and inspectors who work with people in the community to those of us behind the scenes that make their work possible, I see the true meaning of "public service" shown in so many ways. It makes me proud to be a small part of it.

What would you do if you didn't have to work?

Even if I no longer needed to earn a wage for the work that I do, working with people to improve our overall quality of life would still be a part of who I am. I would love to have the resources to be more philanthropic as well as physically involved in those improvements – hey, why not think big, right! Oh, and maybe I would finally find the time to get my house cleaned the way I really want it to look...

Of your accomplishments, is there one that you are most proud of?

I am most proud and thankful that my husband, Bill, and I, along with our family, friends, teachers and others who make up our village, have managed to raise four reasonably happy, intelligent, talented and engaged young people who are working to become productive, responsible and compassionate members of our community.

Do you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert?

I am more of an extrovert, I guess. I love being involved and meeting and working with new people and seeing what comes of developing relationships and shared projects. But, to be honest, I am inherently shy and have to work to be as open and engaging as I want to be.

Continued on next page



LIZ ZEMBROWSKI, cont.

What is your favorite movie?

"It's A Wonderful Life." It has a powerful message that each of us makes a difference, and if we think about it and look at the good things that we have been a part of creating, we really have wonderful lives.

Who is your favorite actor or actress?

Which of my sons/daughter would you like me to name? Oh... you mean FAMOUS actor. There really are a lot of people I could put in that category, but I would have to go with Paul Newman. He has performed in so many roles over his life, and when he wasn't performing, he created a company that provides good food and gives the profits to charitable organizations. He, too, had a wonderful life!

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

The holiday meal. I am a sucker for tradition and those traditional foods that make you remember every good holiday memory you have.



CELEBRATING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

On Friday, Oct. 5, the City of Milwaukee STD/HIV Control Program senior staff celebrated National Disease Intervention Specialists Day. This inaugural event will be an annual day to recognize disease intervention specialists nationwide.

On this day, the MHD honored our **communicable disease specialists** for their critical work in the surveillance, report and control of the spread of STDs, HIV, TB and hepatitis. Each day they cover many miles, braving unsafe conditions, working weekends and nights, and responding to crises outside of STD/HIV prevention including pertussis, H1N1 influenza, *e-coli* and other outbreaks. In meeting their mission to reduce the spread of infectious and communicable diseases, they work with medical providers and other health partners, volunteer at community events, and attend meetings to inform others.

During a celebratory luncheon, certificates of recognition were distributed by Director of Disease Control and Environmental Health **Paul Biedrzycki** and signed by Commissioner of Health **Bevan K. Baker.** A big thank you to all CDS staff for their tireless work!



Front Row (holding certificates): Daphne Prater, Vannessa Vann, Karin Taylor, and Helen White

Back Row: Emerald Mills, Sandy Mattson, Michael Starks, Matthew Scallon, and Otilio Oyervides

THE THE KUDOS

Kudos to Public Health Educator Shirley Senaya for successfully coordinating the two-day health outreach events at the October Fatherhood Summit. Kudos also to the MHD supervisors and program staff who supported the event with display booths, services and education sessions, as well as to Commissioner Baker for delivering an engaging keynote speech that bridged the concepts of maintaining personal health to inspire better family and community health. More than 900 men participated in the health-focused event!

KUDOS to **Dr. Geof Swain** on his recent promotion from Associate Professor to Full Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin. His promotion, effective July 1, is for a three-year term, as approved by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's CHS (non-tenure) Track Faculty Appointments and Promotions Committee and Dean Robert Golden. Congratulations!

From Dr. Eric Gass:

Kudos to those who volunteered to be site coordinators and solicitors for the annual Combined Giving campaign: Kim Reuter, Pat Walker-Anderson, Lisa Phillips, Ann Patz, Bill Borzon and Nancy Gagliano. Your involvement helped raised a total of \$14,264.45. Thank you to all who participated in fundraising events and who donated!

From Jill Radowicz:

Extra special kudos to all staff who worked in our immunization clinics these past months. We had staff working late, picking up shifts, and providing sup-

port to each other! Your hard work and dedication allowed us to vaccinate more than 1,500 clients! More than 4,000 immunizations have been provided since September. Milwaukee is a healthier city thanks to you!

From Julie Hults:

A congrats to **Anthony Anderson** in Consumer Environmental Health, who is currently a fellow with the International Food Protection Institute. This fellowship is designed to provide experienced food regulatory professionals from all areas of food protection with critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making skills within the framework of food regulatory science, law, and policy.

From Polly Belcher:

Kudos to those at DCEH who have been working especially hard during the pertussis outbreak. It has been a lot of work, but they are team players, focused, fair, and great communicators. The community is in good hands!

Kudos to those who serve on committees, especially those on the Safety Committee, Wellness Committee, and Labor Management Council. These people aren't just advocating, they're proposing solutions and working toward implementation.

From Nora DeBerry Johnson:

Sincere kudos to my co-workers in CHAP: Alanda, Christine, Edyliz, Gwen, LaTrisa, Lorena, Nia, Nora, Rodney, and Romana. We are a group of many

different cultures, and we have truly bonded with love and respect for each other. Here's to you!

From Karen Michalski:

Congratulations to Lawan Moore and Janet Flowers Haslem, who received an impromptu award from the FBI recognizing their outstanding investigative assistance. They have aided law enforcement as they attempt to verify identity, search for record links, and more, through the use of birth and death records. Both Lawan and Janet are respected for doing their job accurately and going the extra mile when needed — and doing this all with style and grace. Thank you for your service to the MHD and to the public!



As the days get darker and the weather turns cold, don't forget that the citywide **Employee Assistance Program** is a warm place to go for any of your personal needs. The EAP is prepared to assist with a range of issues such as family and co-worker stress, mental health issues, emotional problems, financial difficulty, and more.

Call **Cris Zamora** at **286-3145** for a confidential consultation.

ACCREDITATION KICKS OFF

The MHD is making strides toward its goal of achieving accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Public Board. health departgot public health? ment accreditation is defined as the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and reward or recognition for those health departments who meet the standards. National public health department accreditation has been developed because of the desire to improve service, value, and accountability to stakeholders by advancing a set of standards and expectations for all public health departments.

Accreditation gives us a chance to work together to identify the great work we do for the City of Milwaukee, while helping us find ways to improve our department as a whole, strengthen the delivery of our services, and increase accountability and credibility.

This month, several groups are wrapping up work on selected accreditation domains, while work continues on several other areas. It is an exciting and challenging goal that is already generating discussions around quality and performance improvement.

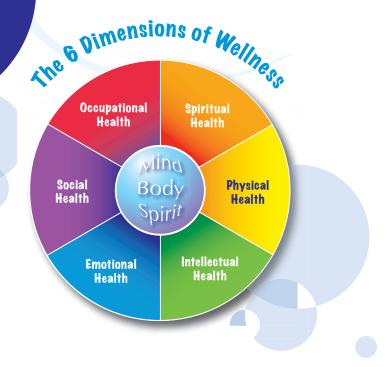
Stay tuned for further updates over the course of the next year!

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Becky Litwaitis

The Wellness Committee welcomes new members: Sarah DeRoo (ZMB), Eric Gass (ZSPH), Erin Perkins (ZMB), and Laura Vanderbilt (ZMB). Other members of the committee include: Nancy Burns (SSHC), Regina Jagers (KHC), Michelle Kinnard (ZMB), Becky Litwaitis (NWHC), Lisa Phillips (NWHC), Neil Rice (ZMB), Shirley Senaya (NWHC), Michael Starks (KHC), and Jennifer Zanin (ZMB).

Wellness Challenges are coming in 2013! Throughout the year, employees will be emailed a Wellness Challenge. Examples might be consuming 25 grams of fiber each day, or sleeping at least seven hours each night. Working on the goal together with our co-workers will allow us to support one another and, perhaps, create a little friendly competition! In addition, Lunch and Learn Programs and the Tips of the Month Newsletter will provide the information and guidance that is needed to achieve each Wellness Challenge. Let's become a healthier Health Department in 2013!



Are you interested in hearing more from the Wellness Committee?

Volunteer to help your committee representative maintain the wellness board at your location by emailing Lisa Phillips at LMPHILL@milwaukee.gov today!

Also, don't forget to share your thoughts about Wellness Committee communications via the MHD Communications Survey (link on p.



3). We want your thoughts and ideas in order to help us meet your needs in the coming year.



RETIREMENTS

Thank you to all who have devoted their careers to educating, empowering and improving the health of Milwaukee's citizens. Your many years of service are deeply appreciated.

Bonnie Brower	Nutritionist	WIC	SSHC
John Sromek	Microbiologist III	LAB	ZMB
Dorothy Listenbee	Food Inspector	CEH	NWHC
Brenda Holman	PHN	BCC	NWHC

NEW STAFF/REINSTATEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

LaTrisa Haynes	Health Access Asst II	MA Outreach	
Brieanna Dusing	Dietetic Technician	WIC	
Kim Koceja	OA I	Vitals	ZMB
Heather Puente	Health Project Coord	MCHVP	
Matthew Scallon	CD Specialist	STD	KHC
Sarah DeRoo	HCO	ADM	ZMB
Darren Engaas	EHS	W&M	
Carlissa Glenn	Clinic Assistant	WIC	
Karen Debaere	Custodial Worker	B&G	
Ka Vang	PHN	PNCC	
Amy Mosely	PHN	NFP	
Rhoda Seabern	Accounting Assistant II		ZMB

PROMOTIONS

Peggy Luckow	Admin Specialist SR	ADM	ZMB
Jazmine Jurkiewicz	Admin Specialist	ADM	ZMB
Manjeet Khubbar	Lead Microbiologist	LAB	ZMB
José Navidad	Microbiologist III	LAB	ZMB
Julie Driscoll	Interim FCH Ops Mgr	FCH	SSHC

TRANSFERS

Luanne Schimmel ITS to DNS

RESIGNATIONS

We also bid farewell to the following staff members and wish them well:

Penelope Koeppel	Microbiologist II	LAB	ZMB
Sonja Miller	Env Spec Supv	Food	NWHC
Geeta Wadhwani	PHN - HIV	HIV	KHC
Mark Doornek	PHN	Men's Health	KHC

Deadline for Next Issue: January 31, 2013
Send materials to Sarah DeRoo at sderoo@milwaukee.gov



BLIZZARD	LIGHTS	SLEIGH
CAROLING	MENORAH	SNOW
CHRISTMAS	MISTLET0E	SOLSTICE
COAT	NOEL	THANKSGIVING
DREIDEL	PIE	TINSEL
EGGNOG	PUMPKIN	TREE
FOOTBALL	REINDEER	TOBOGGAN
GIFTS	SANTA	WASSAIL
HANUKKAH	SHOPPING	
KWANZAA	SKI	



Mayor Tom Barrett



Tom Barrett, Mayor Bevan K. Baker, Commissioner of Health www.milwaukee.gov/health